

lization, and to publish the results. When the public is familiar with these facts, some other major subject will be substituted. The scope of the Foundation is as broad as its name indicates. It is restricted only to conservative, preventive work for humanity as distinguished from ordinary charity relief work or patchwork. Its goal is the constructive, practical advancement and betterment of human life, character, and citizenship, in such manner as to make for human happiness and progress.

The possibilities of fundamental, constructive, preventive work along these lines are broad. They are limited only by the ability and number of workers.

This Foundation is not designed to perpetuate any name or to be a monument to any individual or family; but to be a center from which effective, constructive work can be carried on by all who feel the importance of such work and are in a position to help either by the contribution of capital or by the contribution of talent. The articles of incorporation leave the future free from undue limitations of organization and policy.

The officers and trustees of this Foundation will be glad to confer with anyone who is interested in the work above outlined, or who may wish to use the opportunity afforded by this organization to realize his own ideals in the promotion of race betterment.

Suite 321, Pacific Southwest Building.

*Eugenic Sterilizations Performed in State Institutions
Under State Laws Up to January 1, 1937*

State	Male	Female	Total
Alabama	129	95	224
Arizona	10	10	20
California	5,933	5,551	11,484
Connecticut	23	372	395
Delaware	263	231	494
Idaho	4	10	14
Indiana	321	228	549
Iowa	61	46	107
Kansas	1,039	711	1,750
Maine	14	115	129
Michigan	381	1,315	1,696
Minnesota	224	1,054	1,278
Mississippi	99	223	322
Montana	34	62	96
Nebraska	123	189	312
New Hampshire	45	281	326
*New York	1	41	42
North Carolina	65	325	390
North Dakota	84	250	334
Oklahoma	42	113	155
Oregon	378	727	1,105
South Carolina	0	0	0
South Dakota	110	194	304
Utah	46	60	106
Vermont	41	98	139
Virginia	1,077	1,557	2,634
Washington	31	165	196
West Virginia	0	10	10
Wisconsin	96	696	792
Totals	10,674	14,729	25,403

1. The above figures were furnished by state authorities.

2. In many states lacking sterilization laws, the state institutions sterilize patients with consent. No account is here taken of such operations, nor of those that are primarily therapeutic, not eugenic, in purpose.

3. These reports show an increase of official sterilizations in the United States for the year 1936, of 2,241.

Georgia has just enacted (1937) a sterilization law.

* The New York law was declared unconstitutional in 1918.

Addenda

DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN STERILIZATION AND "BIRTH CONTROL"

There is a wide difference between sterilization and "birth control" by contraception. Unless this difference is recognized in any study of the subject, no reliable conclusions involving both can be drawn.

Eugenic sterilization, primarily, is applied by the state or with its sanction, to persons who would be likely to produce defective children. It protects such persons, their potential children, the state, and posterity. Such persons may not have the intelligence, the foresight, or the self-control, to handle contraceptives successfully, nor the ability to care for children intelligently. Sterilization is practically irreversible—permanent—and 100 per cent effective. It is the only reliable method of birth control which many defectives can use.

Birth control by contraceptive methods is voluntary and applied by the individual for his own purposes. It requires extreme care, intelligence, and a practical biological understanding of the problem. When not applied under definite instructions from a competent, experienced physician or nurse, after examination, it frequently results in failure. At best, what succeeds with one may fail with another, especially with the young and inexperienced.

Both sterilization and contraception have a place in modern society. Both demand careful consideration, but they apply to different classes of people and for different reasons. They should never be confused as merely parts of one program. The best results of each will be promoted by a frank recognition of their differences and the limitations of each.

THE LURE OF MEDICAL HISTORY†

JOSEPH POMEROY WIDNEY, A.M., M.D.,
D.D., LL.D.*

FOUNDER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION AND OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALI-
FORNIA; OLDEST LIVING GRADUATE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
(TOLAND MEDICAL COLLEGE, 1866)

UNVEILING OF BRONZE BUST OF DOCTOR WIDNEY

A MOST unusual event took place at the Los Angeles County Medical Association Tuesday noon, May 11.

The founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, who also founded the School of Medicine of the University of Southern California—Joseph Pomeroy Widney, A.M., M.D., D.D., LL.D., physician, soldier, leader, scholar, statesman, and grand old man of medicine—now

† A Twenty-five Years Ago column, made up of excerpts from the official journal of the California Medical Association of twenty-five years ago, is printed in each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The column is one of the regular features of the Miscellany department, and its page number will be found on the front cover.

* For biographical notes concerning Dr. Joseph P. Widney, readers are referred to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE (April, 1936, page 292, and May, 1936, page 396).

in his ninety-seventh year, attended a luncheon meeting, at which time a bronze bust of himself was unveiled.

Doctor Widney then paid the assemblage the high honor of addressing them on a subject that all through his long life has remained closest to his heart, "The Science of Medicine."

Unusual again is the fact that this bust of Doctor Widney was created by one of the newer graduates of the school of medicine which Doctor Widney founded. The artist is Dr. Emil Seletz, who was also a guest of honor with relatives of Doctor Widney at the luncheon; and his bust has won the recognition of famous sculptors in this country, including George Grey Barnard, who entitled the masterpiece, "The Great Prophet."

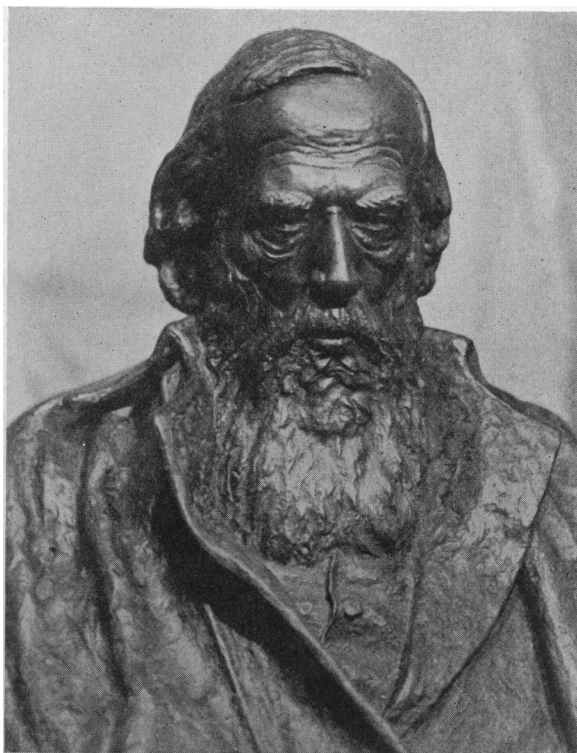
Doctor Widney's message to the profession at this memorable meeting follows:

"I wish, first of all, to thank my associates in the medical profession for the honor they have conferred upon me this day. I appreciate highly the personal friendships it expresses. I have had many friends among my associates of the profession. I know of no enemies. It is a pleasure to me to be able to say this after seventy years spent in the active prosecution of the science of disease—its causes, its prevention. That the physician cures disease might be questioned. That disease may be prevented or successfully led to a favorable ending is beyond question. This is the broader field. In this broader sense, I have never retired from the active practice of the science of medicine; but have patiently, painstakingly, thoughtfully been seeking for the causes which lie back of disease. When I received my diploma—and it came with the honors of the class—two factors had been impressed upon me, the diseases of the man physical and the drug store as the cure-all. I doubted as to the major importance of both. It seemed to me the field was broader than that.

"In press now I have another work—'Civilizations and Their Diseases. Why Do They Die?' And as a sub-topic, another question—'Religions and Their Diseases. Why Do They Die?' It is the instinct of the trained physician that lies back of these books. It is the diagnosis. Then comes another volume, 'The Rebuilding of a Wrecked Civilization.' It is the medical treatment of the case.

"And the prognosis? That while civilizations and religions may die, Civilization and Religion will live on. It is the law of growth. And man has not yet finished his life upon this globe.

"There is one book yet to be completed, for it is now partly written—'Life and Its Problems, as Seen by a Blind Man at Ninety-Seven.' In this book, the search passes out beyond our globe to the globes of many constellations, so distant that the ten-foot reflectors show them as only patches of light. Such questions will arise as 'Life, What Is It? Whence? Whither? Wherefore? When the boundaries of the Universe are reached, what lies beyond? When time shall be no more, what comes after?' And then, the vital question, 'What, in the present stage of man's existence, is the limit of the knowable?'



Bronze Bust: Joseph Pomeroy Widney, M.D., Founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. Sculptor: Dr. Emil Seletz, member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association

"I soon found that by the side of the man physical was a man intellectual and that this man had to be taken into consideration as well as the man physical, and that, too, in every case. They could not be separated and they mutually influenced each other.

"I was called to the bedside of a young woman, handsome and strong and really not very sick, although she thought she was. I was looking into the face of a frightened animal, terror-stricken at the thought of death. A wolf at bay in the chase may look like that and over this the drug store had no power. Cases like that soon turned me to the quest for something higher than drugs in the cure of disease. My mental life began to shape itself more and more along the line of research into the underlying principles of disease. I wanted causation. It was the eternal—Why? Then began my part in the educational work. One lesson I always impressed upon the students in their educational work: 'Never be satisfied unless you have found the cause of the disease. You may not find it, for Medical Science is yet incomplete, still in the empirical stage; but be dissatisfied with yourself if you have failed to keep on trying.'

"I found still another fact, that, by the side of the man physical and the man intellectual, is yet another—the man spiritual. And he, too, must be considered in the curing of the disease. Some of my friends have wondered why I entered the ministry in mid-life. It was not that I was abandoning the Science of Medicine. It was only that I was broadening the field of research. I wished opportunity for clinical study into the souls of



Dr. Joseph P. Widney, the bronze bust of Doctor Widney, and Dr. Emil Seletz. Taken at the time the bust was unveiled on May 11, 1937

men. This could best be found among the churches. I carried this line of research among the velvet-cushioned pews of the rich and respectable, and in the slums of the poor and disreputable. I gave years to this, and everywhere that soul was the same. Environment had made the difference. Then came the curative question, 'How may the environments be improved?' and here, the drug store had no place.

"The field still kept broadening. I found men, differing in types of race life, differing physically, differing intellectually, differing spiritually; and yet having sprung from one common race stock in some original race home. It is so that the old Proto-Aryan of the Uplands of Asia, leaving his land, ages ago as one, has peopled Europe with a progeny so diversified, so unlike each other that we can hardly believe they came from the one primitive stock; and they differ in the types of diseases which they develop. The goitre of the Swiss Alps is not found along the shores of the Mediterranean. Scrofula and consumption of Mid-Europe, with its diet of pork, are less frequently found with the olive and the tart wines of Italy and France. Again comes the eternal — Why? The answer lies, again, in the one word, Environment. And now, Medical Science is dealing not with the individual man, but with races. And now, also, Medical Science, in its researches is dealing—not with the drug store—but with earth problems—physiography, geology, climatology, and is reaching back to the primitive man, and the ice-sheets and earth fissures, into a world life that is ever transforming and re-transforming itself. These settle the fate of the races. We find that peoples upon the earth have appeared, lived their race lives and are gone, leaving only some carven stones or rude monoliths to tell that ever they lived.

"The *elephas giganteus* and the saber-toothed tiger and the cave bear have disappeared with those older races. They shared a common fate. And again comes the eternal Why? Medical Science must help to solve the problem. And again, away back at the beginning of the long, long trail is the glimmer of the green bottle of the apothecary's window. To the credit of the medical profession, it may be said, the search began there. And over the broad earth, in every department of research, into the evolution of man and of globes, the men of medical training are in the lead.

"The books which, for fifty years, I have been slowly thinking out, I am now elaborating and publishing. Through them all runs one connecting thought.

"In the recent years of blindness, sitting alone in the dark, I have been slowly thinking it out. These books are my contributions."

THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH*

CALIFORNIA'S STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, THE
SECOND TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE
UNITED STATES

By GUY P. JONES
Sacramento

THE California State Board of Health was organized by statute April 15, 1870. It was the second such board to be established in the United States, the Massachusetts State Board of Health having been organized but six months earlier. Dr. Thomas M. Logan, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and later a resident of New Orleans, was primarily responsible for the organization of the California State Board of Health. He arrived in Sacramento in 1850 and resided there continuously until his death in 1876. Almost single-handedly he put through the legislation for the organization of the California Board and became its first secretary, remaining in this post until his death.

PERIOD: 1870 TO 1905

The activities of the Board from the beginning, in 1870 until 1905, were conducted solely by seven doctors of medicine, who held meetings at least quarterly, generally oftener. During these years serious problems in the prevention of communicable disease were encountered. The appearance of plague in 1900 and again in 1908 produced major crises which jeopardized the cordial relationship between California and the rest of the states.

PERIOD: 1905 TO 1929

In 1905, upon the accession of Dr. George C. Pardee of Oakland to the governorship of California, Dr. N. K. Foster became secretary of the State Board of Health. With the appointment of Doctor Foster, the State public health organi-

* From the office of the Chief of the Division of Vital Statistics, California Department of Public Health.